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State of Connecticut
SENATE

ASSISTANT SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER

RANKING MEMBER
GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION &
ELECTIONS COMMITTEE
LABOR COMMITTEE

MEMBER
COMMERCE COMMITTEE
JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

Testimony of Senator Rob Sampson
Housing Committee
March 10, 2022

S.B. No. 296 (RAISED) AN ACT ELIMINATING THE REQUIREMENT TO STORE THE PERSONAL PROPERTY OF EVICTED TENANTS.

S.B. No. 297 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING REIMBURSEMENTS TO LANDLORDS FOR THE DISPOSITION OF TENANT PROPERTY.

Co-Chairs Lopes and Williams, Ranking Members Cicarella and Polletta, and esteemed member of the Housing Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit my written testimony in support of Senate Bills 296 and 297. These bills are similar to proposals that I have introduced over the years to fix a longstanding but still unresolved issue. What must be done with the possessions of tenants that are left behind after an eviction? Currently, this ends up as a cost to municipalities and therefore to taxpayers. Of course, town governments don't like this and have often attempted to shift the expense of storing these items back to the landlord. The proper answer is to this issue is clear. The tenant's possessions are the responsibility of the tenant - and no one else. I don't know if this bill is the perfect answer, but I would suggest a limited amount of time for tenants to recover their property and then allowing landlords to dispose of it as they see fit. Landlords should also be able to charge appropriately for storage and disposal.

We have enough shifting of responsibility in our society. This is an easy one. Let's make it clear we are responsible for ourselves and our belongings, even as evicted tenant.

Thank you for your consideration of this legislation and please feel free to reach out to my office with any questions and concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rob Sampson".

State Senator Rob Sampson
16th District